

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 29, 2004
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bruce Henning, Phoenix, Chair	Surprise: Cathy Charney for
Avondale: Rudy Castillo	Janet Ramsay
Chandler: Shereen Sepulveda	Tempe: Steve Such for Oliver Ncube
Gila River Indian Community:	*Tolleson: Mark Berrelez
Candice Bell	Wickenburg: Harry Parsi
Gilbert: Bill Hancock	*Maricopa County: Ash Madhok
Glendale: Ed Pallone for	Pinnacle West Capital: Barbara Lockwood
Norm Gumenik	*Salt River Project: Dan Casiraro
#Goodyear: John Acosta	Solid Waste Association of North America:
*Litchfield Park: Luke Gutierrez	Mark Powell
Mesa: Jennifer Means for	*Valley Forward Association: Don Cassano
Will Black	*Arizona Department of Commerce:
Peoria: Jesse Duarte	Mitra Khazai
*Paradise Valley: Andrew Cooper	*Arizona Clean and Beautiful:
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian	Leandra Lewis
Community: Jeremy Phillips for	#Arizona Chamber of Commerce:
B. Bobby Ramirez	David Wallis
*Scottsdale: Rick Pence	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.
#Attended by videoconference or by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Universal Entech: Daniel Musgrove	City of Tempe: David Tavares
HDR Engineering: Leslie Dorenfeld	City of Tempe: Neil Calfee
HDR Engineering: Audrey Unger	City of Phoenix: Roseanne Sanchez
Town of Guadalupe: Antonio Figueroa	Maricopa Association of Governments:
Iturralde	Brenda Day
Town of Gilbert: Louis Andersen	
City of Chandler: Hank Pluster	
URS: Pascal Hinnen	

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee was conducted on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. Bruce Henning, Chair, City of Phoenix, called the meeting to order.

2. Agenda Announcements

Chair Henning provided an opportunity for members to share announcements with the group. John Acosta, City of Goodyear, announced that the Waste Management White Tank Transfer Station is scheduled to open in November 2004 at Perryville & McDowell Roads. He indicated that the twenty acre site would have a transfer station building plus an office building.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Henning provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. No members of the public wished to comment.

4. Approval of the February 13, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the February 13, 2003 meeting. Jennifer Means, City of Mesa, moved and Bill Hancock, Town of Gilbert, seconded and it was unanimously carried by a roll call vote to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2003 meeting.

5. ADEQ Update on Solid Waste Management Legislation

Jim Buster, Director of Governmental Affairs for ADEQ, provided a status update solid waste management legislation. Mr. Buster indicated that the Legislature is renegotiating the budget. He indicated that Senate Bill 1085 was originally proposed to increase solid waste disposal fees from 25 cents per ton to 40 cents per ton. He indicated that stakeholder concerns led to a bill change that would not increase fees, but instead redirect half of the disposal fees going to the Arizona Recycling Fund toward the Solid Waste Division. The funding would help staff the Solid Waste Division which has been reduced by 13 since 1999 due to budget cuts. He indicated the proposed bill is due to go the Floor. He indicated that a bill to increase solid waste fees may be re-evaluated next year.

Mr. Buster indicated that Senate Bill 1084, which was proposed to change solid waste, hazardous waste, and used oil regulations, was held and will be revisited next year. He indicated that House Bill 2251 was proposed by Speaker Flake to address the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program. The bill would expand requirements to unincorporated communities that currently only apply to municipalities with a population of less than 15, 000.

Mr. Buster indicated that Senate Bill 1306 would eliminate subsidizing of UST cleanup over a period of years. Mr. Buster indicated that the UST program is supposed to end in year 2011, and the bill would create a new \$60 million fund to address USTs discovered late in the process. He indicated that some contractors and rural area stakeholders are discussing concerns with the bill with Speaker Flake.

Mr. Buster indicated that House Bill 2484 contains State Water Quality Assessment Revolving Fund (WQARF) amendments that would allow ADEQ more flexibility in preliminary investigations and the re-opening of investigations. He indicated that the proposed bill would give ADEQ authority to remove sites from the WQARF List and provide a process for doing so. He indicated consensus has been reached and the bill is anticipated to pass.

Mr. Buster indicated that House Bill 2088 would change brownfields legislation so Arizona does not lose federal funding. He indicated that House Bill 2279 is a striker bill which would allow Waste Management, Inc. to operate a pilot project to dispose liquid waste in the landfill.

Barbara Lockwood, Pinnacle West Capital, inquired whether ADEQ plans to propose an increase in solid waste disposal fees in the future.

Mr. Buster indicated that ADEQ would propose an increase equating to three cents more per resident per month. He indicated that this increase is not significant, but some would oppose any increase at all. He indicated that ADEQ has struggled to sustain the solid waste program since last year's 39 percent cut in General Funds and he is hopeful that consensus can be reached next summer.

Chair Henning inquired whether the proposed House Bill 2279 would only allow Waste Management, Inc. landfills to dispose of liquid waste or whether it would apply to other landfills as well.

Mr. Buster indicated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed a law to allow research development permits to landfill owners, so other landfills could also apply to accept liquid waste.

Jesse Duarte, City of Peoria, inquired whether Waste Management, Inc. has identified a particular landfill for liquid waste disposal.

Mr. Buster indicated that he believes Waste Management, Inc. has identified a particular landfill but he is not sure which one.

Ed Pallone, City of Glendale, inquired whether Waste Management, Inc. had applied for the approval to dispose liquid waste at the landfill in anticipation of a future bioreactor landfill project.

Mr. Buster indicated that he believes this may be the case but he does not know for sure.

6. Presentation on City of Tempe Permanent Household Products Collection Center

David Tavares, Environmental Hazardous Materials Supervisor for the City of Tempe, provided an overview of the Tempe Household Products Collection Center. Mr. Tavares indicated that the facility is the only permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) collection center in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The City matched ADEQ grant funding to initiate the facility on Earth Day 1999. Before the facility opened, Tempe held collection events at temporary sites about twice a year and hired a contractor to consolidate materials offsite. The permanent facility allows the City to consolidate materials onsite and give them back to the community on a continual basis.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the facility accepts materials from Tempe and Guadalupe residents. The City is surrounded by five other municipalities and substantial population growth is not anticipated. The facility location is important and Tempe leases land from Arizona Public Services for the site. For the purposes of the facility, Tempe is divided into four sections by zip code. About 22 percent of the facility's total participation occurs in the area closest to the facility, which includes Arizona State University. The greatest participation, 62 percent, occurs in middle Tempe where there are many professionals with greater income. About 16 percent occurs in south Tempe which includes many upper management professionals. He indicated that the south area also has the most influential homeowner's associations and the City hopes to partner with them to increase participation.

Mr. Tavares indicated that facility challenges include promotion, education and encouraging more reuse. Promotion of the facility includes City sponsored events, multi-media, such as the regional newspaper and local public access channel, water bill inserts, and promotional items at other City facilities. He indicated that participation increased with just one ad in a homeowner's association newsletter. Mr. Tavares indicated that educating residents on the difference between municipal solid waste and HHW is key.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the City has established satellite collection points for major HHW items. The City educates about the HHW collection center at the satellite sites and all Tempe schools. The collection facility serves as a demonstration and training center for other City employees to practice safety standards and hazardous materials handling. In addition, the Center staff handles indoor air quality, hazardous materials specialists, clandestine drug situations, and health and safety for other Tempe departments.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the facility swap area allows residents to take used or new household products for reuse. Residents fill out a form to show which items they take and in what quantity. Mr. Tavares indicated that used latex paint is mixed at the facility and reused by the City or donated for reuse.

Mr. Tavares indicated that, in the long term future, the City is considering accepting Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) waste from local businesses. Tucson accepts this waste type, but has a County/City run program with a larger staff. The Tempe Center is unique to others across the nation in being City-operated with a staff of only four. He indicated that, for the future, Tempe is also considering partnering with other municipalities, and being pro-active in setting up HHW programs around Maricopa County and the State.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the Center diverted 84 percent of the material as being recycled or reused. The Center receives 40 percent of its total weight from latex paint. He indicated that over 11,000 vehicles have passed through the Center so far in 2004. The recycling rate at the facility is now 91 percent, and participation has increased each year.

Ms. Lockwood inquired whether the City would charge a fee for accepting CESQG waste if they began accepting it in the future.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the City would have to charge a fee since it would involve more costly disposal and tracking process requirements.

Ms. Lockwood inquired whether Mr. Tavares could estimate how much conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste actually exists in the Tempe area.

Mr. Tavares indicated that he does not know the amount in Tempe but the City of Tucson began accepting CESQG waste and this waste type now exceeds the household hazardous waste collected at the five collection sites.

Shereen Sepulveda, City of Chandler, inquired whether the City of Tempe is concerned that offering satellite drop off locations may be more convenient for residents and result in residents not going to the permanent facility.

Mr. Tavares indicated that this is one reason Tempe finds it important to reach the south Tempe population and encourage use of the permanent collection facility. He also indicated that the satellite sites only accept major HHW categories and the sites include education about the permanent facility.

Ms. Sepulveda inquired whether there is data showing that south Tempe, the more affluent area, generates less HHW due to a greater likelihood that they will hire private contractors to do homeowner chores and haul waste away.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the City does not have data to show that this area generates less HHW, but the participation rate is lower. He indicated that the material collected from this area tends to be of higher quality and more usable.

Chair Henning inquired whether the Center accepts electronic waste such as computers.

Mr. Tavares indicated that the Center began accepting electronic waste two years ago and they containerize it and they are checking out options for recyclers and total destruction.

7. Presentation on Universal Entech Food Waste Digestion Project and Wastepaper Recovery Mass Balance Research

Daniel Musgrove, Universal Entech LLC, provided an overview of recent research projects. Mr. Musgrove indicated that the Food Waste Digestion Project and Mixed Waste Paper Recovery research were partially funded by ADEQ Waste Reduction Assistance Grants. Mr. Musgrove indicated that Universal Entech LLC is a private environmental technology development firm which started in 1990 and focuses on organic resource management and biological systems technology. The firm built the Huachuca Recycling Center in 1993 and operates a wood recycling operation in Central Arizona and a compost operation.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that the goal of the Food Waste Digestion Project is to assist a major grocery chain in developing urban recycling alternatives. He indicated that the about 80 percent of the typical U.S. grocery store waste is organics. The food waste is wet, putrescible and highly biodegradable. This waste stream also contains wax-coated cardboard, which many grocers believe is not practical to separate at the source. He indicated that the project thesis is to determine whether the cardboard is inhibitory to food waste digestion.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that project challenges include minimal source separation availability, varying amounts of fats, oils and grease, and market competition with landfills. Objectives of the project include evaluating digestibility, investigating the effect of wax-coated cardboard, determining the methane yield and volatile solid destruction efficiency, and determining the cost-benefit points of implementing the technology. He indicated that Iowa State University was involved in the research.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that the pilot test showed that cardboard is readily biodegradable and low in nutrient value, but has no inhibitory effect on food waste digestion. He indicated that methane production increased over time. He indicated that an optimum pH balance is preferred by the organisms for optimal digestion and use of wastewater such as dairy wastewater can help create such a balance.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that the goal of the mixed waste paper recovery research is to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness of waste paper recovery from mixed municipal solid waste. He indicated that the goal is not to replace curbside and commercial recycling, but to integrate it into these services. He indicated that paper makes up a high percentage of mixed municipal solid waste, even when curbside recycling programs exist. He indicated that the project thesis is that mixed waste paper from municipal solid waste can be processed into value-added recyclable material while achieving significant volume reduction.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that research challenges include contamination by grit, glass, plastics and wet strength fibers, balancing quality versus quantity, and how to determine marginal efficiencies. The objectives include developing innovative dry material recovery facility technology, converting light fraction fluff, and achieving value-added material recovery. Mr. Musgrove indicated that the research showed that 25 to 50 percent volume reduction was achieved, that fluff makes up a significant portion of volume in mixed municipal solid waste, that increased recycling options were observed, and that integration of hydrolysis was validated.

Mr. Musgrove indicated that the firm is working on a Biomass Energy Systems project with a goal to develop new value-added markets for low valued waste wood materials. There is an excess supply of wood waste and woody green waste in the Greater Phoenix area, and that potential financial incentives for biomass power through the Environmental Portfolio Standard mandate of the Arizona Corporation Commission. He indicated that the project thesis is that integrating biomass-based renewable energy systems into municipal solid waste management will increase landfill diversion and improve future capacity. The objectives include expanding urban wood waste recycling markets, leveraging existing infrastructure, reducing seasonality, and sustainability.

8. Presentation on Municipal Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment Activities in the MAG Region

Hank Pluster, Long Range Planning and Development Manager for the City of Chandler, provided an overview of the Chandler Gateway West Project. Mr. Pluster indicated that the City of Chandler worked with Remediation Financial on cleanup and redevelopment of the brownfields site at Interstate 10 & Ray Road. The site previously contained an auto shredder operation and was contaminated with lead, polychlorinated-biphenyls, and auto shredder debris.

Mr. Pluster indicated that mitigation of the site cost over \$5.3 million and included removal, transportation and disposal of impacted soil, replacement with fill material, and project management. The City contributed about \$2 million in tax reimbursement to help off-set remediation costs. He indicated that remediation costs were reimbursed in the amount of 50 percent of the current City retail sales tax revenues generated by Chapman Chevrolet.

Mr. Pluster indicated that the cleanup and redevelopment of Chandler Gateway West led to the establishment of 121,081 square feet of retail space and an estimated 405 jobs. The project also stimulated development of the larger Chandler Pavilions on surrounding land and the two projects contribute 10 percent of the City-wide sales tax revenue. Mr. Pluster indicated that benefits of brownfields redevelopment include transforming impaired property into a viable commercial property, increased sales tax revenues, increased property tax revenues and creating jobs.

Audrey Unger, HDR Engineering, provided an overview of brownfields redevelopment opportunities. Ms. Unger indicated that it is estimated that up to 600,000 brownfields sites exist across the nation which, if redeveloped, could generate about 550,000 new jobs and \$2.4 billion in new tax revenue. She indicated that incentives for brownfields redevelopment include job creation, additional housing and schools, increased tax revenue, infill site development, increased greenfield preservation, increased awareness of environmental justice issues, and increased public safety.

Ms. Unger indicated that the Valley Forward Brownfields: A How-to Handbook was developed by a joint effort between Valley Forward, HDR, Gallagher & Kennedy. The main goal of the Handbook is to educate the private and public on brownfields research, scheduling, program elements, and funding sources. The Handbook also contains several case scenarios, including the Chandler Gateway West project. Ms. Unger indicated that grant applications for EPA brownfields funding are due in November 2004. She indicated that there are many unique brownfields redevelopment opportunities throughout Maricopa County and Arizona.

Neil Calfee, City of Tempe, provided an overview of brownfields redevelopment activities in Tempe. Mr. Calfee indicated that the City of Tempe has not formally established a brownfields program, but has conducted activities such as the McClintock/Rio Salado Parkway Brownfield Redevelopment Project. He indicated that it is a 200 acre site with 95 parcels and 45 property owners between Loop 202 & the Rio Salado Parkway, just east of McClintock. He indicated that the City is landlocked and this land is important to the City. The land was historically a County island used for industrial dumping, landfills, sand & gravel operations, batch plants, and auto heaps.

Mr. Calfee indicated that the City is planning the Tempe Marketplace Project at the confluence of Interstates 101 & 202. He indicated that Tempe designated the area as a Redevelopment Area and adopted a Redevelopment Plan through a public-private partnership with Miravista Holdings. The site was previously listed on the National Priorities List as part of the South Indian Bend Superfund Site. The City worked with the ADEQ Voluntary Remediation Program to get part of the site delisted and the Notice of Intent for partial delisting was published on February 28, 2003. He indicated that 267 sites have been deleted from the List under 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 300.5(E). He indicated that the next steps for the project include environmental site activities, an environmental assessment, data management, and environmental insurance.

Roseanne Sanchez, City of Phoenix, provided an overview of the Phoenix Brownfields Land Recycling Program. Ms. Sanchez indicated that brownfields redevelopment can reduce environmental and health risks, use existing infrastructure, expand the local government tax base, serve as a catalyst to attract new business and jobs back to the inner city, and reduce pressure to develop green space.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that federal incentives are available to all municipalities in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Ms. Sanchez encouraged City representatives to take the information from today's meeting back to their cities and councils. Ms. Sanchez indicated that Phoenix and Tucson have the only established permanent City-funded brownfields programs in Arizona.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that State, tribes, local governments, redevelopment agencies, land clearance authorities, and Councils of Government are eligible for federal brownfields funding under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, or the New Brownfields Act. The Act includes assessment grants, cleanup grants, targeted brownfields assessments, job training grants, and the State Response Program.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that, under the New Brownfields Act, brownfields assessment grants for up to \$200,000 are available for hazardous substances or petroleum contaminated brownfields. The New Act provides Comprehensive Environmental Remediation and Compensations Liability Act liability protection for innocent landowners, prospective purchasers, and contiguous property owners. She indicated that EPA is required to develop formal due diligence for "all appropriate inquiry" until a standard is promulgated.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that the Arizona contaminated property tax reduction program, effective December 31, 2001, encourages brownfield cleanup by allowing the County Board of Supervisors to reduce past due taxes on properties with significant contamination. She indicated that the ADEQ program is not strong, but they could apply for much more federal funding. Ms. Sanchez indicated that the other cities need to ask ADEQ for funds in order to bring more funds into the State.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that the Phoenix Brownfields Land Recycling Program was initiated in 1998 with a \$200,000 EPA grant. In July 2000, the Phoenix City Council approved a permanent program funded with General Funds. She indicated that the main goal is to encourage cleanup and redevelopment by creating incentives and reducing obstacles. Brownfields redevelopment occurs more commonly on publicly owned land than privately owned, because private owners don't know their site is a brownfield or they are reluctant to come forward with the information. She indicated that ADEQ tried to compile a list of brownfields sites in Arizona but did not succeed due to private sector reluctance.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that the City is interested in encouraging private owners to become more active in brownfields redevelopment. Ms. Sanchez indicated that funding is only available to public entities and it is important to make Congress aware that funding availability for the private sector is needed to increase activity. The City makes \$100,000 in funding available each year for public infrastructure improvements, curbs, gutters, landscaping, and public easements in right-of-ways. She indicated that the City also works with the private sector and provides technical assistance.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that other funding sources available in Phoenix include brownfields cleanup revolving loan funds, with \$500,000 available for cleanup and borrower's environmental insurance. In Phoenix, private sector projects have included the cleanup of 235 acres with a \$244 million private investment and the creation of at least 3,000 jobs. Examples include the Ace Asphalt Project and Riverview Business Park, a cleaned up landfill site that was converted to condominiums and office warehouse space. She indicated there are real estate opportunities near the Rio Salado Project in Phoenix. The project will include bike trails, river restoration, habitat restoration, large parcels, commercial & industrial zoning, proximity to Sky Harbor Airport and Central Phoenix, and an established business park setting.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that several public use projects, such as cleanup and redevelopment and construction of a public library, have been completed in Phoenix. The City has applied for brownfields assessment grant funding for the planned Light Rail Project to investigate the status of sites along the rail site. Ms. Sanchez indicated that the City is currently working on Copper Square at South Mountain Village. This 100 acre brownfields site at 24th Street & Southern Avenue will include a master planned subdivision with of 700 homes.

Ms. Sanchez indicated that, for the future, the City is investigating infill incentives, and the City Manager has created a Task Force to propose a program to encourage infill within the City's 51 mile designated infill area. Ms. Sanchez indicated that the Sixth Annual City of Phoenix Brownfields University will be conducted on May 12th & 13th, 2004.

9. Status Update on Solid Waste Association of North America (SWAN) WASTECON 2004

Jennifer Means, SWANA President and City of Mesa representative, and Mark Powell, City of Scottsdale, provided an update on WASTECON 2004. Mr. Powell indicated that the 42nd annual event will be held in September 2004 in Phoenix. Ms. Means indicated that the event will include many activities in addition to the informational sessions such as a golf tournament, and that guests are also invited. Ms. Means indicated that the registration brochure is available online at www.swana.org.

10. Discussion of the Development of the Solid Waste Planning Section of the FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

Brenda Day, MAG staff provided a briefing on the draft Solid Waste Planning Section of the FY 2005 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget. The Work Program is developed each year in conjunction with member agency and public input. She indicated that the FY 2004 Program included an update of the Regional Recycling Information Exchange Webpage and development of a Major Revision of the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The Committee participated at critical points in plan development such as the Scope of Work and a major survey of member agencies. She indicated that member agencies have reviewed their individual draft description of facilities and programs, identification of needs and key data tables.

Ms. Day indicated that the plan revision is an item in the FY 2005 Work Program and it is anticipated that the draft document will be available for review by the Committee and member agencies soon. The Committee will be requested to authorize that a public hearing be conducted.

She indicated that the Committee would be requested to consider public comments and recommend plan approval to the Management Committee, who would then make a recommendation to Regional Council. She indicated that the plan would then be sent to ADEQ and EPA.

Chair Henning indicated that it is important to get the plan revision out because the City of Phoenix is in the process of siting a landfill. Chair Henning then called for adjournment of the meeting.